

for which indent has already been placed with the Staff Selection Commission by the Central Passport Organisation.

**Demonstration by Tibetan Refugees During LI-Peng's Visit**

4449. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tibetan refugees had organised demonstrations during the visit of Chinese leader Li Peng;

(b) if so, whether this was not a misuse of hospitality of the Indian Government;

(c) whether Chinese Government has expressed their unhappiness over such demonstrations; and

(d) whether these demonstrations come in the way of normalization of our ties with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

**Delay in issuance of passports**

4450. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "The eternal wait for a passport" published in the 'Statesman' dated 24th January, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that people who are desirous of passports are unduly harassed and it takes even years together to issue a passport; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to streamline the functioning of various passport offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.